

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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WILDLIFE SERVICE NOT CURTAILING
FISHING RIGHTS ON SUSQUEHANNA FLATS

"Fishing rights on the Susquehanna Flats in Maryland have not been curtailed and there is no intention on our part to do so," declared W. C. Henderson, Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service today (Wednesday November 13.) The statement was made in response to a recent report that commercial fishermen were compelled to remove their nets from the lower third of the Flats where a Closed Area was established in 1939 in cooperation with the State of Maryland.

"The Closed Area is a part of the famous Flats where a large percentage of the continental supply of canvasbacks spend the major part of the annual open hunting season," Mr. Henderson explained, "and each year the Service asks commercial fishermen to cooperate by refraining from fishing on the closed area during the hunting season."

All the fishermen are cooperating this year, as they did last year, the official declared, and there is no need or intention of curtailing fishing rights.

The object of asking fishermen to refrain from going on the Closed Area during the hunting season is that motorboats used to cross the Flats during fishing activities would frighten the birds, and the waterfowl would leave the water and fly to other parts of the Flats that are open.

"In order to obtain full benefit from the Closed Area, the Fish and Wildlife ^{Service} representatives have made it a point to seek the cooperation of fishermen who have nets there by asking them to lift their traps in this part of the Flats during the hunting season.

"That's all there is to this question," he continued. "To my knowledge there has never been, and certainly there is no need, for coercion. The fishermen have cooperated splendidly and we appreciate their friendly spirit."